

# (12) UK Patent Application (19) GB (11) 2 283 428 (13) A

(43) Date of A Publication 10.05.1995

(21) Application No 9322914.4

(22) Date of Filing 03.11.1993

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(51) INT CL<sup>6</sup>  
A61F 13/15

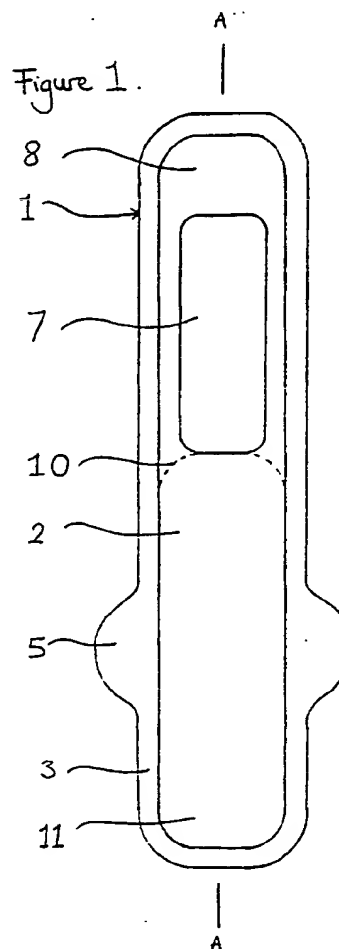
(52) UK CL (Edition N )  
A5R RPF

(56) Documents Cited  
GB 2161384 A GB 2133987 A WO 90/04956 A1  
US 4900319 A US 4597759 A

(58) Field of Search  
UK CL (Edition M ) A5R RPF RPG  
INT CL<sup>5</sup> A61F 13/15  
ONLINE DATABASE: WPI

## (54) Catamenial napkin

(57) The napkin (1), which is considerably greater in length than a conventional napkin (10), comprises absorbent padding (2), a recessed portion (7) therein defining two padded portions (11, 8) and a cover enclosing said padding, the padding being more than 30 mm long and particularly 330 - 380 mm long. The first padded portion (11) is substantially longer than the second padded portion (8) which is for location at the end of a woman's natal cleft at the base of her spine.



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Figure 1.

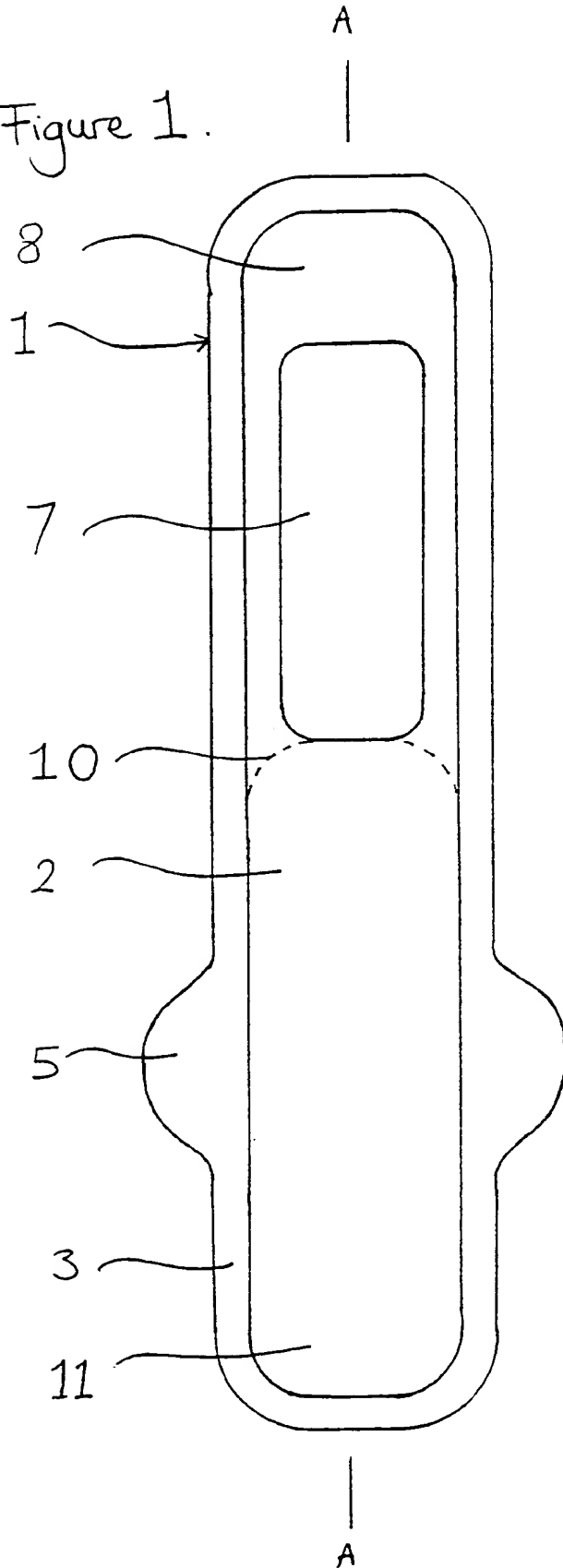
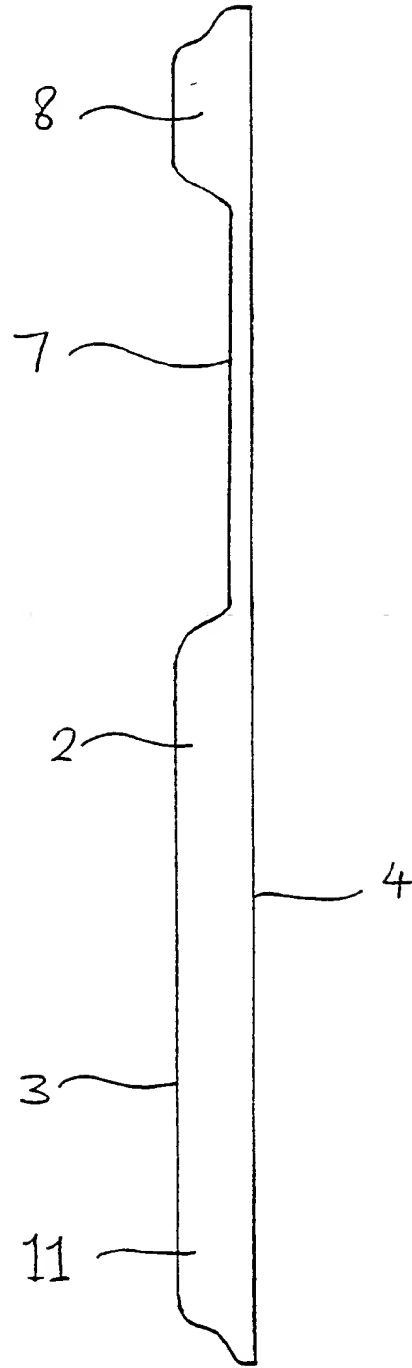


Figure 2.



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Figure 3.

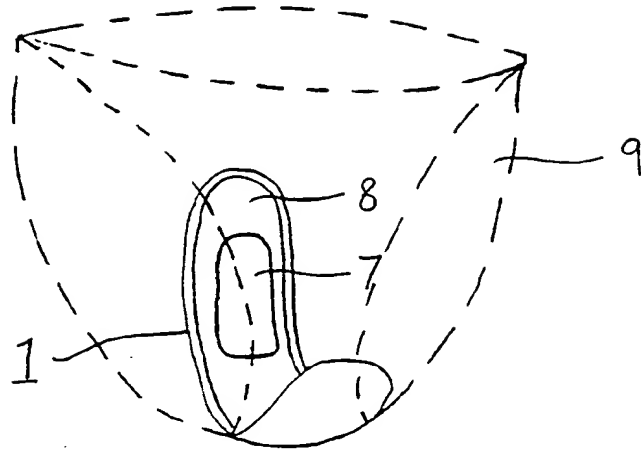
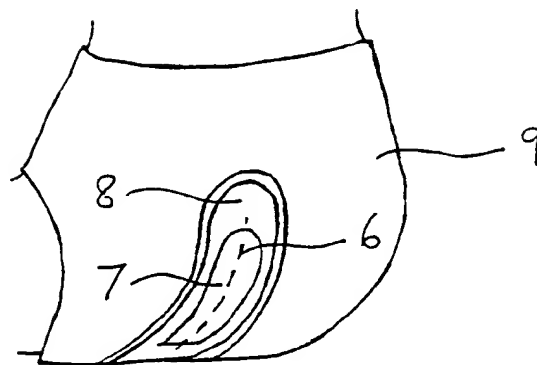


Figure 4.



CATAMENIAL NAPKIN

This invention relates to a catamenial (or sanitary) napkin.

Catamenial napkins of various sizes and absorbencies are commonly available for use by women. However, women who suffer from an abnormally profuse menstrual discharge can find conventional napkins inadequate, especially when they are asleep. Due to the effects of gravity when such a woman is asleep on her back, there is a particular tendency for fluid to leak from the end of the crease (natal cleft) between her buttocks at the base of her spine. Conventional napkins are of a length up to about 250 mm and are not long enough to provide protection against such leakage (see Figure 1, outline 10).

It is an object of the present invention to provide an improved, extra long, catamenial napkin.

According to the present invention there is provided a catamenial napkin comprising absorbent padding extending more than 300 millimetres along its length.

Preferably, the absorbent padding is between 330 millimetres and 380 millimetres in length.

According to a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the napkin has a recessed portion within said padding defining two padded portions extending the width of the napkin, the first padded portion being substantially longer in length than the second padded portion.

The cumulative length of the padded portion and the recessed portion along the length of the napkin is over 300 millimetres and is preferably between 330 millimetres and 380 millimetres.

The recessed portion may be surrounded by absorbent padding.

One embodiment of the present invention will now

be described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying diagrammatic drawings, in which:

Figure 1 shows a plan view of a catamenial napkin;

5 Figure 2 shows a cross-sectional view of the catamenial napkin through A-A in Figure 1;

Figure 3 shows the catamenial napkin located in a superimposed pair of knickers; and

10 Figure 4 shows an perspective view of a person wearing the catamenial napkin.

Referring to Figures 1 and 2, a napkin 1 comprises absorbent padding 2 enveloped by a porous cover 3 on its upper face and by an water-resistant cover 4 on its lower face. The porous cover 3 and the water-resistant cover 4 are sealed together around the edges of the napkin.

20 An adhesive is applied to the outer face of the water-resistant cover in order to locate the napkin on the inside of a pair of knickers and to prevent the napkin moving out of position. Plastic coated paper is used to protect the adhesive coating before the napkin is worn, said paper being removed in order to reveal the adhesive coating for attachment.

25 Optionally, the napkin may comprise side flaps 5 (not shown in Figures 3 and 4) for folding over the leg apertures in a pair of knickers to give additional adhesion thereto and to provide further protection against leakage.

30 Referring to Figures 3 and 4, the napkin 1 is sufficiently long so as to extend to the top of the crease (natal cleft) 6 between a woman's buttocks at the base of her spine.

35 The catamenial napkin comprises padding over 300 millimetres in length. In this example, the absorbent padding of the napkin is 55 millimetres wide (excluding

side flaps 5) and 380 millimetres long.

It will be appreciated that napkins of varying lengths can be provided dependent, for example, on the size or shape of the wearer. In addition, some women  
5 (depending on their sleeping position) require extra protection against leaking fluid towards their front so the napkin may be extended along its length in that direction also.

Napkins according to the present invention  
10 are therefore substantially greater in length than conventional napkins. Outline 10 in Figure 1 depicts the length of a conventional napkin in relation to the length of a napkin according to the present invention.

In this embodiment of the invention, the napkin  
15 is provided with two padded portions, each extending across its width. The first padded portion 11 is located towards the front of the napkin and is substantially longer than the second padded portion 8 which is located towards the back of the napkin. The first padded portion  
20 11 has approximately the same dimensions as a conventional napkin and is about 250 millimetres in length. The second padded portion 8 is about 40 millimetres in length. Connecting the two padded portions is a recessed portion 7 which is about 90 millimetres in length. The recessed  
25 portion 7 and the padded portion 8 effectively extend from the back end of a convention napkin (see Figure 1).

The preferred cumulative length of the padded portions 8,11 and the recessed portion 7 along the length of the napkin 1 is between 330 millimetres and 380  
30 millimetres.

Since there is a tendency, particularly when sleeping, for fluid to leak from the end of the crease between a woman's buttocks at the base of her spine, the padded portion 8 can be positioned at the base of the  
35 wearer's spine by means of a pair of knickers 9 so as to

absorb this fluid (see Figures 3 and 4).

As shown in the figures, the recessed portion 7 is surrounded by absorbent padding. Thus, any excess fluid coming into contact with this recessed portion can migrate to and be absorbed by the surrounding padding.

This recessed portion is not padded but comprises the porous cover 3 and the water-resistant cover 4 preferably sealed together, at least around the edges of said portion 7.

In a further embodiment (not shown), the recessed portion may comprise a thin layer of absorbent padding located between the porous cover 3 and the water-resistant cover 4.

The purpose of this recessed portion is to reduce the bulk of the napkin for the increased comfort of the wearer, and to minimise the amount of padding required (for cost effectiveness).

CLAIMS

1. A catamenial napkin comprising absorbent padding extending more than 300 millimetres along its length.
2. A catamenial napkin as claimed in Claim 1,  
5 wherein the absorbent padding is between 330 millimetres and 380 millimetres in length.
3. A catamenial napkin as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein said absorbent padding has a recessed portion defining two padded portions extending the width  
10 of the napkin, the first padded portion being substantially longer than the second padded portion.
4. A catamenial napkin as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the recessed portion is surrounded by absorbent padding.
- 15 5. A catamenial napkin as claimed in Claim 3 or Claim 4, wherein the cumulative length of the padded portions and the recessed portion along the length of said napkin is over 300 millimetres.
6. A catamenial napkin as claimed in Claim 5,  
20 wherein the cumulative length of the padded portions and the recessed portion along the length of said napkin is between 330 millimetres and 380 millimetres.
7. A catamenial napkin substantially as  
25 hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying diagrammatic drawings.



**Relevant Technical Fields**

(i) UK Cl (Ed.M) A5R (RPF, RPG)

(ii) Int Cl (Ed.5) A61F 13/15

Search Examiner  
L V THOMAS

Date of completion of Search  
10 JANUARY 1994

**Databases (see below)**

(i) UK Patent Office collections of GB, EP, WO and US patent specifications.

(ii) ONLINE DATABASE: WPI

Documents considered relevant  
following a search in respect of  
Claims :-  
1-7

**Categories of documents**

X:	Document indicating lack of novelty or of inventive step.	P:	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of the present application.
Y:	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of the same category.	E:	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of the present application.
A:	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.	&:	Member of the same patent family; corresponding document.

Category	Identity of document and relevant passages		Relevant to claim(s)
X,Y	GB 2161384 A	(PROCTER & GAMBLE) See lines 112-114 page 3 and Figure 1	1, 2 3-6
Y	GB 2133987 A	(YAMADA) See lines 57-76 page 1 and Figures 1, 5 and 7	3-6
X	WO 90/04956 A1	(MULLER) See lines 4-28 page 1, line 21 page 2 - line 4 page 3 and lines 26-29 page 3	1, 2
X,Y	US 4900319	(RICHWINE) See line 58 column 1 - line 2 column 2	1, 2 3-6
X	US 4597759	(JOHNSON) See line 56 column 1 - line 19 column 2 and lines 42-53 column 2	1, 2

Databases: The UK Patent Office database comprises classified collections of GB, EP, WO and US patent specifications as outlined periodically in the Official Journal (Patents). The on-line databases considered for search are also listed periodically in the Official Journal (Patents).

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